

To: Senator LeBeau
Representative Berger
Members of the Commerce Committee

Date: March 14, 2012

Re: Support for Raised House Bill No. 5466: **AN ACT CONCERNING SOCIAL ENTERPRISE BUSINESSES**

I am writing in support of Raised House Bill No. 5466. I support this bill because Social Enterprise uses market forces to achieve public good. Working in the not-for-profit arena, it is very challenging and competitive to secure funding for mission driven work. This was especially felt two years ago when the housing market collapsed and dollars at the private, public and foundation levels were deeply impacted. As the economy rebounds and investors diversify portfolios—it makes sense that our government follows suit by implementing Bill No. 5466 and I totally support this Bill.

Businesses thrive on innovation and this is Connecticut's time to drive positive social change that supports the following: maintaining a competitive edge with other states that have passed similar legislation; generate innovative business alternatives and venture capital; retain college graduates in the workforce through startups and entrepreneurship; drive new jobs through innovation and solve community problems without being a burden on taxpayers.

Many businesses are concerned about societal improvements and enhancements, but can not afford to be financially penalized for trying to improve the greater good. This legislation is about business capital driving positive social change and economic development.

It is time for traditional for-profit businesses and not-for-profit entities to be agents of positive social change. Bill No. 5466 is one solution to sustain economic development. Social Enterprise is not about charity, but it is about improving business practices, supplying jobs, supporting new venture startups, and most importantly continuing to elevate our great state.

Thank you for your consideration and do not hesitate to contact me with questions.

Sincerely,

Donna Sodipo
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